

ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL

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ILLINOIS IN GENERAL

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# Illinois

## Bicentennial

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



**Mormons and Swedes**

Explore two distinctive settlements that carry visitors back to the mid-19th Century during a two- or three-day weekend. Nauvoo is 240 miles from Chicagoland and Bishop Hill just 160, and it can either be included on the Nauvoo journey or comprise a separate, shorter trip.

In Mormon-settled Nauvoo, a dozen Federalist-styled structures of the 1840s are open. A Visitors' Center charts their history, and guides are at each building. There also are excursion

Continued on following page

# *Wonders of Illinois:*

## *Great sites for your eyes*

Continued from preceding page

boat rides on the Mississippi from April 18 to Oct. 15.

While travelers may observe Nauvoo's two chief industries, grape vineyards and caves of aging cheese, at prescribed times of the year, the Labor Day weekend is a particularly good time to enjoy the Grape Festival's "Wedding of the Wine and Cheese."

If you swing down to Nauvoo via Peoria, pick a country road between Lewiston and London Mills to traverse part of the Spoon River Valley chronicled by native poet Edgar Lee Masters.

Return via Abingdon, where a locally carved 83-foot totem pole is the largest outside the Pacific Northwest, and via Galesburg where the home of another poet, Carl Sandburg, is open to visitors.

Bishop Hill is a half-hour drive. The simple Shakerlike architecture reflects the tranquil era of its founders — a colony of Swedish Jansenists. The Greek Revival Steeple Building is famous for its one-handed clock, and the Bjorklund was once a busy stage stop. Every Sunday, May through October, local crafts experts demonstrate their ancestors' pioneer trades.

**The Amish**

Another day's outing to the eastern side of the state will take you to Illinois' Amish country where your auto will share roads with horse-drawn buggies. In the twin towns of Arthur and Arcola, about 30 miles south of Champaign-Urbana, this sect of hard-working, intensely religious farmers lives as its ancestors did in the mid-1800s. The Arthur Information Center guides visitors through the community, providing the flavor of Amish life while protecting the people's privacy. Enjoy spring and summer activities at Arcola's Rockome Gardens. Each weekend, from May 8-9 through May 29-30, features Railsplitting Days; Farmer's Market Days hold forth July 9-10; German music, July 11; and bluegrass tunes July 25.

Make this a two-day trip and celebrate



Urbana's Heartland Heritage Days July 1-4, or drop in on the Krannert Art Gallery at the University of Illinois. A short distance beyond is Charleston with its share of Lincoln memorabilia: the scene of the fourth Lincoln-Douglas debate. In nearby Log Cabin State Park, the home of his parents has been reconstructed.

#### Galena and more

A weekend journey west to the Mississippi River and Galena is a feast for scenery, architecture, history, and antique enthusiasts. A treasure of Steamboat Gothic buildings clings to imposing bluffs. Homes, offices, shops, churches, a hotel, and the residence of its most famous citizen, Ulysses S. Grant, can be explored. Many are open year round, but an Annual Home Tour is offered June 12-13 with a separate evening "Lamplight" trip through the Grant house. The "Skills from the Hills" crafts show is also that weekend.

On May 14-16, 300 costumed citizen-troops re-create the fifth annual Civil War Cantonment, with a parade and a weapon-firing contest. En route, at Rockford, Swedish antiques and ancient time pieces can be seen at Erlander's Home Museum and the Time Museum, respectively, while Freeport marks the site of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858.

A one-day trip [or a brief excursion that can be incorporated as part of a weekend in Galena] has its terminus at Dixon's petunia-lined streets and mementos of Lincoln's tour of duty as a captain in the Black Hawk War, and the nearby hamlet of Grand Detour, noteworthy for its John Deere restoration. Here is the shop where Deere perfected the steel plow and his riverside homestead, authentically furnished as it was in the 1830s.

A few miles north, along the scenic Rock River, is Oregon, surrounded by verdant state parks — Castle Rock, Lowden Memorial [with its towering Indian sculpture by Lorado Taft], and White Pines [with the only virgin White Pine Grove in Illinois].

#### Nearby parks

For the outdoor lover, four state parks are grouped within a day's journey [less than 100 miles] from Chicago: Starved Rock, which gets its name from a band of Indians who, in 1769, were surrounded on a rocky eminence by their enemies and starved into submission; Buffalo Rock State Park, which long contained a herd of bison; Illinois State Park across the river from Marseille; and Matthiessen with pioneer buildings, canyons, waterfalls, caves, cliffs, 400 varieties of plants, and a prehistoric stone sculpture. En route to the parks, you can join the citizens of Lockport celebrating Old Canal Days June 18-20. Or, in late summer or fall, combine a park trip with one of several Sweet Corn Festivals — Aug. 13-15 at Mendota and Sept. 24-26 at Morris.

#### Lincoln

Sooner or later everyone seeks out the Lincoln memorabilia of Springfield and New Salem. New treasures have been added to an already rich trove. A \$587,000 sound and light show in the Old Capitol, one of three such exhibitions in the country, will premiere this 4th of July. The Bicentennial gesture will remain a permanent fixture. Spoken by professional actors, the scenario traces the story of the building, the people, and events which made history. Dramatically blended with the words is a musical score and a panoply of imaginative, theatrical lighting. The show is free nightly through September, weather permitting. The area around Lincoln's home is being cleared and restored to add greater significance to the dwelling. The Old Capitol Art Fair, May 15-16, captures the flavor of Sangamon County in its displays.

Allow time for the new Park Telephone Museum on Illinois Bell's grounds. It's an array of more than 100 antique instruments collected as a hobby by a now-retired employee.

A newly marked 22-mile circular route, dubbed the Lincoln Post Road, connects Springfield with New Salem State Park, the

site of a log cabin community where Lincoln lived for six years. It's still one of the most authentic and engaging restorations in the country, replete with costumed men and maids engaged in 19th Century activities. Along this Post Road trail, at Athens, is another innovation—the Long Nine Museum, named for the tall Lincoln and eight equally lanky fellow legislators. This former store and post office, circa 1832, contains dioramas about the town and local artifacts, and another museum is devoted to river boating.

One mile south of New Salem is the Carriage Museum, filled with antique modes of transport. To see these shrines from a fresh angle, join the Bicycle Campout from Springfield to New Salem June 12-13.

Wind up a day of sightseeing with country and western music at Illinois Country Opry at Petersburg.

If you have three days, include Pleasant Plains, a short jaunt south of New Salem. Here the Clayville Rural Life Center features crafts from May through October, with special events each weekend, including quilt shows and flea markets, to highlight the regular activities.

Also, northeast of Springfield, in the town of Lincoln, a replica of the Postville Courthouse contains Lincoln papers; and west, beyond New Salem, in Beardstown, is the courthouse where Lincoln tried a famous murder case.

#### Chicago

Two pages of "Illinois: Prairie Heritage" highlight Chicago—geographically, culturally, and historically—its buildings, museums, personalities, and ethnic enclaves. A German-arranged photographic exhibit, "100 Years of Chicago Architecture" at the Museum of Contemporary Art, May 1-June 20, synthesizes the city's physical character. You can see these photo subjects "live" by taking one of several walking tours that begin at Archicenter, 111 S. Dearborn St.

For a copy of the "Illinois: Prairie Heritage" booklet, write the Illinois Adventure Center, 160 N. La Salle St., Room 100, Chicago, Ill. 60601. It's free.



By Natalie Levy

**"JUST OUTSIDE Chicago, there's a place called Illinois."**

The phrase is familiar enough, but the idea bears renewing. With so much Bicentennial hoopla about the original 13 Colonies, we Illinoisans might overlook our state's impact on the nation.

Like lending Abe Lincoln to hold the Union together and dispatching Ulysses S. Grant to give him an assist on the battlefield; and fighting a Revolutionary War action out here, far from Lexington and Concord; and owning a Liberty Bell, 11 years before the Philadelphians; and having the oldest building west of the Alleghenies and some of the most significant archeological sites anywhere.

The State of Illinois has nudged us about our heritage by giving us a booklet that will serve both the native and visitor long after the 200th candle has been blown out on the birthday cake. Called "Illinois: Prairie Heritage," it reminds us with pride and pleasure of our memorable people, historic places, varied scenic landmarks, and even a soupcon of beguiling trivia.

**"ILLINOIS: PRAIRIE Heritage"** is where I discovered that Kaskaskia's bell was a gift to the French community by King Louis XV, and that Col. John Montgomery won the westernmost battle of the War of Independence at

Rockford in 1780. In similar anecdotal vein, the 16-page booklet takes us all the way from the Indians of 6000 B. C. through trail blazers and trappers, settlers and statesmen to 20th Century tycoons and poets.

"Illinois: Prairie Heritage" is an illustrated, fact-filled, site-filled capsulization of mainstream influences on Illinois through the centuries. It's divided into seven sections of two pages each—Indians, explorations, settlements, Lincoln, commerce, Chicago, and culture.

Each section complements and relates to another. For instance, an architecture enthusiast intrigued by Galena's Steamboat Gothic buildings will find further references to the old Victorian river town in the Lincoln section [noting that Galena claims nine Civil War generals] and in the commerce pages [citing the wealth and prominence lead mining brought to this "most important town north of St. Louis."]

**THE CHICAGO** survey is amplified in the section on culture—and Lincolniana crops up everywhere. Entertaining and enlightening, its organization is by subject rather than geography or chronology, by people and ideas rather than plaques and statues, not just "what to see" but "why it's fun to see it."

Though aimed at helping travelers enjoy heritage outings in the Prairie State, it is not a formal or precise guide with routes and mileages, visiting hours, and admission fees. Instead, it kindles the spirit of discovery in the

history buff, the nature lover, the culture freak, and the casually bemused wayfarer in quest of pleasant and rewarding experiences.

Combine "Illinois: Prairie Heritage" with the Office of Tourism's Calendar of Events, and you can plan excursions year round, lasting a single Saturday or Sunday or a long holiday weekend.

Here is just a sampling:

#### The South and the French

In a compact, forested tongue of land 400 miles south of Chicago between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers lie scenic and historic wonders [an ideal trip for a three- or four-day weekend]. An 1869 Cairo home called "Magnolia Manor"—an antique-filled showplace open to the public—testifies that this part of Illinois is more Deep South than Midwest, while names like "Shawnee" and "Prairie du Rocher" attest to our Indian and French origins.

Here is one of the first warm weather festivals, Ferne Clyffe Country Days, at Ferne Clyffe State Park, April 24-25. Jagged gorges, brooks and dells, and trees and wildlife play host to craft displays, quilting demonstrations, bluegrass music, and nearly 20,000 visitors.

Camp in the vast Shawnee National Forest. Relive frontier life at Fort Massac, near Metropolis, one of the finest re-creations of a military outpost in the new world. From Fort Massac State Park, retrace George Rogers Clark's northwesterly trek to Kaskaskia, a town which

he took without firing a shot to secure the Illinois territory. Make this trip on the long 4th of July weekend, and you'll see and hear the Liberty Bell of the West peal out at Ellis Grove on Independence Day as townsfolk re-create Clark's victory.

Within a few miles, at the tiny hamlet of Prairie du Rocher—once the center of the territory's French cultural life—is Creole House, now in the National Register of Historic Places. Help the locals fete Illinois' Gaelic heritage at the Fort de Chartres Rendezvous on July 10-11 with Colonial music, crafts, games, birch bark canoe races, and militia skills. The exuberance is gentled by demonstrations of French frontier cookery by women dressed in period costume.

If you go south over the long Labor Day weekend, include the \$230,000 "Kentucky Derby of harness racing," the famed Hambletonian, on Sept. 4 [during the DuQuoin State Fair, Aug. 28-Sept. 6].

#### Mounds and Digs

In a three- or four-day weekend you can travel back to 6000 B.C. At Havana, Dickson Mound State Park protects one of the largest known Indian burial grounds. More than 225 skeletons between 500 and 1,000 years old remain just as they were unearthed with their ornamentation and artifacts.


Kampsville is the next way station on your trip. At the Koster site, in summer, you can watch archeologists and volunteers excavate the site. So far, 12 distinct horizons of culture have been uncovered, revealing priceless glimpses of early life along the Illinois River. A formal museum display of artifacts depicts the life patterns of hunter, gatherer, skilled workman; and farmer discovered at Koster.

Cahokia Mounds State Park marks the golden age of Illinois Indian culture in the 11th Century. Dozens of colossal earthwork mounds were ceremonial houses of worship. The largest, Monks Mound, is greater in bulk and area than the pyramids.

The Cahokia Courthouse [a state memorial] dates from 1737 and its Church of the Holy Family has been in continuous use since 1799. On July 17, Cahokia honors George Rogers Clark with an End of the Trek courthouse reception.







*A. Lincoln*

LINCOLN'S THOUGHT  
AND THE PRESENT

A Conference  
presented by  
Sangamon State University  
Springfield, Illinois  
June 7-11, 1976

Funded by  
the Illinois Bicentennial Commission  
and  
the National Endowment for the Humanities



*A. Lincoln*

Sangamon State University invites the public to a five-day working conference, Lincoln's Thought and the Present, June 7-11, 1976. Nineteen Lincoln scholars and historians of the Civil War era from across the country will gather at Springfield to present original papers and engage in public discussion linking our 16th President to the great issues of American life with which he had to contend, and with which we ourselves continue to grapple.

Among the major topics to be examined: the myth of the self-made man; the role of law in American life; the part played by minorities and women; the conflict between politics and statesmanship; changing conceptions of the family; the idea of progress; the struggle over state's rights.

Springfield was Lincoln's home for almost a quarter of a century, and it is rich in Lincoln lore. The five local sites most closely identified with Lincoln's life — his home, his law office, the Old State Capitol, the Great Western Railroad Depot, and the Lincoln Tomb — will serve as the central focus for four of the five conference days. In addition to hearing original papers and taking part in public discussion, those attending the conference will also tour all five sites with historians as guides.

The entire conference will be broadcast live over the Sangamon State radio station, WSSR.

Funded by  
the Illinois Bicentennial Commission  
and  
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Monday, June 7th Lincoln, the Frontier and Social Mobility

- 9:30-12:30 "The Self-Made Man: The Lincoln Image and American Ideas of Success," Arthur Margon  
"Lincoln and the Right to Rise," G. S. Boritt
- 1:00-2:50 Class Meetings
- 3:00-5:00 Round Table Discussion. Moderator, Neil Harris
- 8:00 P.M. "Lincoln and the Constitution," Don E. Fehrenbacher

## Tuesday, June 8th Lincoln and the Law

- 8:30-9:20 Class Meetings
- 9:30-12:00 "Law and Politics: A Search for Public Morality," Douglas Morgan  
"Lincoln and Politics: From Vandalia to Chicago," John H. Keiser
- 1:00-2:30 Tour Lincoln/Herndon Law Offices
- 2:45-4:30 Round Table Discussion. Moderator, Clyde C. Walton
- 8:00 P.M. "Lincoln, Blacks and Women," Roy P. Basler

## Wednesday, June 9th Lincoln and the Nineteenth Century Family

- 8:30-9:20 Class
- 9:30-12:00 "Women in the Nineteenth Century Family," Kathryn Kish Sklar  
"Lincoln and the Search for Order and Community in Mid-Nineteenth Century America," George W. Fredrickson
- 1:00-2:00 Tour Lincoln home
- 2:45-4:30 Round Table Discussion.
- 8:00 P.M. "Lincoln and the Idea of Progress," Norman Graebner

## Thursday, June 10th Lincoln, Douglas and the Debate Over Slavery and State's Rights

- 8:30-9:20 Class
- 9:45-12:00 "Lincoln and Douglas in Springfield," Christopher N. Breiseth  
"The 1858 Lincoln-Douglas Campaign in National Perspective," Robert W. Johannsen

(This morning's session and the afternoon Round Table will be held in the Legislative Chamber of the Old State Capitol.)

- 1:00-2:30 Tour Old State Capitol
- 2:45-4:30 Round Table Discussion. Moderator, William K. Alderfer
- 8:00 P.M. "Lincoln and the Coming of the Civil War," Richard N. Current

## Friday, June 11th Lincoln, the Secession Crisis and the War

- 9:00-10:00 "Lincoln Reacts to the Civil War," Roger Bridges
- 10:15-12:30 Bus Tour to Depot and Tomb
- 1:30-3:00 Class
- 3:15-5:00 Round Table Discussion. Moderator, John Hubbell
- 8:00 P.M. Summary and Conclusion, Cullom Davis



## CONFERENCE

**GEORGE M. FREDRICKSON**, Professor of History, Northwestern University, is the author of *The Inner Civil War: Northern Intellectuals and the Crisis of the Union* (1965), and *The Black Image in the White Mind: The Debate on Afro-American Character and Destiny, 1817-1914* (1971). He is currently writing a study of Abraham Lincoln's public philosophy.

**NORMAN A. GRAEBNER**, Edward R. Stettinius Professor of Modern American History at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, is the author of several books on United States diplomatic history and is the editor of *The Enduring Lincoln* (1959), *Politics and the Crisis of 1860* (1961) and *Manifest Destiny* (1968).

**NEIL HARRIS**, Professor of History, University of Chicago, is the author of *The Artist in American Society* (1966), *Four Stages of Cultural Growth: The American City* (1972) and *Humbug: The Art of P. T. Barnum* (1973).

**JOHN T. HUBBELL**, Associate Professor of History, Kent State University, is editor of *Civil War History*. He is the author of numerous articles on the military history of the Civil War and has edited an anthology, *Battles Lost and Won: Essays from Civil War History* (1975).

**ROBERT W. JOHANNSEN**, J. G. Randall Professor of History, University of Illinois, is the author of *Frontier Politics and the Sectional Conflict* (1955) and *Stephen A. Douglas* (1973), winner of the Francis Parkman Prize for History. He also edited *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* (1965) and *The Letters of Stephen A. Douglas* (1961).

**ARTHUR MARGON**, Assistant Professor of History, the New School of Liberal Arts, Brooklyn College, is the author of "Changing Models of Heroism in Popular American Novels," scheduled for publication in *American Studies*.

**DOUGLAS MORGAN**, Assistant Professor of Political Studies, teaches at Sangamon State University.

**JOHN H. KEISER**, Associate Professor of History, Sangamon State University, has twice won the Harry E. Pratt Memorial Award for articles on Illinois history. He writes a weekly newspaper column on state history, and is author of the forthcoming *Building for the Centuries: Illinois, 1865-1898*.

**KATHRYN KISH SKLAR**, Associate Professor of History, UCLA, is a fellow at the National Humanities Institute, New Haven. She is the author of *Catharine Beecher, A Study in Domesticity* (1973).

**CLYDE C. WALTON**, Director, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, was the founder and first editor of the *Civil War History*. He has also edited *An Illinois Reader* (1970) and *Private Smith's Journal*.



A. Lincoln

## PARTICIPANTS

**WILLIAM K. ALDERFER**, Illinois State Historian and Executive Director of the Illinois State Historical Society. He is also Executive Director of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois and Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

**ROY P. BASLER**, Honorary Consultant in American Studies, Library of Congress, is the editor of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* (1953, supplement, 1974), and author of *The Lincoln Legend* (1935) and *A Touchstone for Greatness* (1974).

**G. S. BORITT**, Assistant Professor of History at Memphis State University, is the author of the forthcoming *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream*. He is currently a post-doctoral fellow in mathematical statistics at Harvard University, working on a Lincoln project.

**CHRISTOPHER N. BREISETH**, Professor of History, Sangamon State University, is Director of the SSU History Competency Project and author of "Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: Another Debate," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (1975).

**ROGER D. BRIDGES**, Director of Research, Illinois State Historical Library, is the author of several articles on the Civil War and Reconstruction era, including "John Sherman and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson," *Ohio History*, Summer-Autumn, (1973), and "President Grant and the Formation of a Southern Policy, 1869-1877," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (April, 1975).

**RICHARD N. CURRENT**, University Distinguished Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is the author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* (1957). Among his numerous other publications: *Old Thad Stevens* (1942), *Three Carpetbag Governors* (1968), *Reconstruction in Retrospect* (1970).

**CULLOM DAVIS**, Professor of History, Sangamon State University, is Director of the SSU Oral History Office and Acting Dean of Library Services. He won the 1962 Pelzer Award of the Organization of American Historians and is co-author of *From Tape to Type: An Oral History Manual and Workbook* (1975).

**DON E. FEHRENBACHER**, Coe Professor of History and American Studies, Stanford University, is the author of *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's* (1962) and editor of *The Leadership of Abraham Lincoln* (1970) and *Abraham Lincoln, A Documentary Portrait* (1964). He also edited and completed David M. Potter's *The Impending Crisis* (1976).



## HOW TO ENROLL

The conference is open both to students seeking academic credit on the graduate and undergraduate levels, and to the general public. Anyone wishing to attend should fill out, detach and return the attached pre-registration form as soon as possible.

SSU students seeking to take the course for credit may register for HIS 497 at early registration on April 16 and 17, during the regular summer school registration on May 14 and 15, or at the special conference registration on the morning of June 7.

Non-SSU students wishing to attend for credit may enroll as special students for 2 credit hours for a tuition fee of \$36 on either May 14 and 15 or on June 7.

Credit-seeking students will meet daily during the conference in small groups with a member of the SSU faculty.

Members of the general public are also welcome to attend all events on the conference calendar except the class sessions. Seating for daytime events is restricted, however, and will therefore have to be limited to those who first return their pre-registration forms.

Attendance at all public events will be free and there will be ample room for all who wish to come to the evening sessions.

All daytime events unless otherwise indicated on the calendar, will take place at the SSU Capital Campus, located in the former Leland Hotel, 5th and Capitol, Springfield, Illinois.

Evening sessions will be held in the Cafeteria at the SSU Main Campus, Shepherd Road, Springfield.

All students are urged to read *Abraham Lincoln* by Benjamin P. Thomas before attending.

Photographs Courtesy of  
the Library of Congress and  
the Illinois State Historical Society

*A. Lincoln*

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## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me as a \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Credit Participant in the Lincoln Conference.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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ILLINOIS IN GENERAL

